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House of Representatives

FIGHTING FOR THE PROGRAMS CALIFORNIANS NEED!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

Madam Chair, did you know that this bill, H.R. 1, cuts millions of jobs from our economy, cuts the Clean Water Act, cuts the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program, and many other infrastructure programs? In my State of California, we are losing, just on this bill, almost 50,000 jobs; the total jobs around the country, almost 300,000. Come on. This is not a way to cut both the deficit and keep our economy going.

I happen to represent a border district. I represent the whole Mexican border with California. Madam Chair, I'm sure Mr. Flake knows very well the border in Arizona, and he knows that in this bill, the GSA construction and acquisition funding line has been eliminated - eliminated - \$894 million worth.

I don't know about in the State that Mr. Flake represents, but I'll tell you, in California, you are eliminating the several-hundred-million-dollar modernization of two of the biggest border

crossings in our country and the biggest one in the world.

In my district, 300,000 people cross the border every day legally - legally - and they're crossing mainly for jobs and for shopping. We all know we need to make that far more efficient, that crossing, so people can spend money in our country and create jobs. You have eliminated the whole modernization moneys out of this budget, and I'm sure this affects Arizona.

The Otay Mesa crossing where we have all the commercial crossings in California, gone. The biggest border crossing in the world in San Ysidro, gone. Another big one in my district, Calexico, California, gone.

We are leaving billions of dollars on the table, Madam Chair, for jobs in our economy. If we don't have efficient border crossings, we don't have trade. We don't have shopping. We don't have the crossings that are legal that

we all want to encourage. These modernization programs went directly at that, not only in California but in Texas, in New Mexico, and I'm sure in Arizona. And yet all those jobs that are created by more efficient crossings are now thrown away.

So the gentleman from Arizona who wants to give up efficient border crossings in his State, you might tell him, Madam Chair, I don't think that's a good way to run for the Senate. Taking \$18 million out of a defense budget of \$612 billion is pretty miserly stuff. It's not even a good symbol for a guy running for Senate in the United States.

We should really go after what the Republicans said they are going after. Let's end the war in Afghanistan, save trillions of dollars off the deficit. But more importantly, the cuts that we have seen in infrastructure in this country, the cuts we have seen in GSA are costing hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of jobs. This is a job buster. It should be defeated.